



NEWSLETTER



HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Message to Members

By: Leslie Bauer, President Howard County Farm Bureau

I am excited for the opportunity to be your new Howard County Farm Bureau President. For those who may not know me, I thought it might be a good time to introduce myself. My husband, Ricky and I live on a 175 acre farm - Rural Rhythm Farm - in Dayton. Here are a few facts about me:

Farm Bureau and agriculture are a part of my roots. Both of my grandparents were farmers (outside of Maryland), and I grew up on a small 25 acre hobby farm in Fulton where we raised sheep. I am a former Howard County 4-H member and I was a runner up in the 1985 Howard County Farm Queen Contest. I was also the 1986 MD Lamb & Wool Queen.

No sheep these days, however we do raise a few cows & pigs. We mainly raise grain crops (corn, rye & soybeans) on our home farm plus an additional 600 acres around the county.

I work part-time off the farm. I also grow a little bit of produce (mostly strawberries and tomatoes) as time permits.

I met my favorite farmer at Montgomery County Fair the same day I got my driver's license, two

days after my 16th birthday. We have been together for 34 years - married for 32.

We have raised 3 amazing kids together, my two oldest, Danielle and Andy, both have careers in agriculture, and our youngest, Jackie, was also pursuing a career in agriculture, but for reasons we will never fully know or understand, decided to take a different path in life, running ahead of all of us to heaven in September 2018.

These days, in addition to my passion for agriculture, I now have a passion for mental health. I hope that my story will touch others and let them know how much they really do matter and make a difference in this life. You are enough!

In regards to farming and our agriculture community, the number of farms seems to be shrinking every day, and the ones who are left behind can be faced with all sorts of challenges as we try to survive. Howard County is home to many different and diverse types of agriculture. Each of us

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Message to Members
2	The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade
3	Howard County Students Learn How to Care for Local Waterways
3	Montgomery-Howard-Frederick Agronomy Day
4	USMCA Is a Victory for Farmers and Ranchers
5	MPT Series Maryland Farm & Harvest Features Education-Themed Episode on December 31
6	Announcements
7	*Calendar of Events*

is unique, and we all have our own ways of doing things. We have each found what works best for us in our own operations. It would be very boring if we all did things exactly the same. I believe that while we all may be different, we need to learn to embrace the differences in one another and to support one another. As we continue to face challenges in agriculture, we can be more successful together as a united group, then each of us trying to fight our own separate battles. That is the beauty of Farm Bureau - a grassroots organization controlled by its members - it provides a voice to help members accomplish their goals together, something that would be difficult for each of us to do alone. If there is ever anything I can try to help out with, please feel free to reach out - labauer5@verizon.net or 443-812-1662. Depending on the season, sometimes it may be 24 hours before you hear back from me, but I will respond. Howie has left me with some big shoes to fill, but I am looking forward to the challenge, and hope I can serve each of you well. As we embark on this new year, I wish each of you a Happy New Year!

The 2019 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade

By: Alice Settle-Raskin



Even Rainy Days CAN be GREAT DAYS at The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade! The numbers are in!

SMILE & BE PROUD! Because of YOU, over 3100 POUNDS of Canned Food was collected at [The Lisbon Christmas Parade](#) and taken to our two local food banks - Howard County Food Bank & Carroll County Food Sunday - to feed our local hungry!

THANK YOU!



The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade just celebrated its ninth year and is presented by The Howard County Farm Bureau. It has grown to be a tradition in Western Howard County and continues to be one of Maryland's largest fundraisers to feed the hungry.

Mark your calendars for The 2020 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade, held annually the 2nd Saturday of December at 12 noon. Details as they are developed will be published online at:
www.LisbonChristmasParade.com.



Presented by [The Howard County Farm Bureau](#), The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade benefits the Howard County Food Bank ([Community Action Council of Howard County](#)), [Carroll County Food Sunday](#), [Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry - FHFH](#) and the [Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company](#)

Howard County Students Learn How to Care for Local Waterways

Source: UMD Extension
By: HCPSS Partnership Office

December 19, 2019

Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy partners with Howard County Public School System to engage students in environmental stewardship



Students take part in storm drain stenciling at an elementary school

Image Credit: Terry Matthews, UMD Extension

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) has partnered with the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA), a program of the University of Maryland Extension, to collaborate on a variety of activities and programs that educate staff and students about improving the health of local streams and waterways.

Under the terms of the agreement, WSA representatives will provide volunteers to help students engage in hands-on environmental learning experiences, in support of school system curricular objectives and science/environmental standards. WSA will support school efforts to apply for and maintain Green School designation, as well as offer professional learning sessions or consultations for teachers on storm water management and related topics.

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy training program empowers residents to improve

the quality of local waterways. By sharing resources, forming partnerships and coordinating efforts, WSA works with a consortium of support professionals, master watershed stewards and their communities to reduce pollutants, infiltrate storm water and restore natural systems.

The Howard County Public School System's Partnerships Office has united schools with more than 1,000 businesses and community organizations to enhance the educational experience of Howard County students. Partnerships benefit schools, businesses and the entire community by leveraging the resources of all participants. Partners may commit human or financial resources or other support.

Source: <https://extension.umd.edu/news/howard-county-students-learn-how-care-local-waterways>

Montgomery-Howard-Frederick Agronomy Day

Source: UMD Extension



The Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick Agronomy Day is **Thursday, February 20, 2020**. 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM at the Urbana Fire Hall: 3602 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD 21704

The most recent research, information and data will be shared at the meeting and will help make 2020 growing decisions for agricultural crops. The meeting is open to all interested in agronomy, forage, vegetables and fruit. Private pesticide applicator and nutrient management credits will be offered.

Register by calling the Frederick County UME Office at 301.600.357

For agronomy meetings in other counties visit the UME website ...

<https://extension.umd.edu/.../2020-maryland-crop-production-m...>

USMCA Is a Victory for Farmers and Ranchers

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

December 19, 2019

The following statement may be attributed to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall:

“Farm Bureau commends the House for approving the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. It was a bipartisan effort as shown by the overwhelming 385 to 41 vote, and we appreciate the work of members of Congress on both sides of the aisle in getting this deal done.

“This trade agreement could not come at a more critical time for U.S. agriculture. Farmers and ranchers have been hit with a perfect storm of low commodity prices, weather disasters, trade disruptions and a severe downturn in the farm economy. The USMCA will provide continuity in the growth of the North American market and will strengthen our trading relationships with Canada and Mexico, which are our number-one and number-two export markets, respectively.

“We are hopeful that USMCA can be a model for future U.S. trade agreements, as these modernized rules will be a strong guide for addressing continuing issues. We urge the Senate to quickly approve the USMCA.”

USMCA BACKGROUND

Designed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, the USMCA builds on important trade relationships in North America.

- The agreement is expected to increase U.S. ag exports by \$2 billion and result in a \$65 billion increase in gross domestic product.
- The agreement will provide new market access for American dairy and poultry products while preserving the zero-tariff platform on all other ag products.
- In particular, the agreement gives U.S. dairy products access to an additional 3.6% of Canada’s dairy market – even better than what was proposed in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement.
- U.S. wheat will receive fairer treatment, thanks to Canada’s agreement to grade our wheat no less favorably than its own.
- Mexico and the United States have also agreed that all grading standards for ag products will be non-discriminatory.
- Additional provisions enhance science-based trading standards among the three nations as the basis for sanitary and phytosanitary measures for ag products, as well as progress in the area of geographic indications.
- The agreement also includes measures that address cooperation, information sharing and other trade rules among the three nations related to agricultural biotechnology and gene editing.

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Source: <https://www.fb.org/newsroom/usmca-is-a-victory-for-farmers-and-ranchers>

MPT Series Maryland Farm & Harvest Features Education-Themed Episode on December 31

Source: *Maryland Department of Agriculture*

December 30, 2019

Episode Segments Take Viewers to Carroll and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City



Photo Credit: Maryland Public Television's Maryland Farm & Harvest

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, now in its seventh season, will feature farms and locations in Carroll and Montgomery Counties as well as Baltimore City during a new education-themed episode airing on **Tuesday, December 31 at 7 p.m.**

Maryland Farm & Harvest takes viewers on journeys across the state, telling stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow Maryland's number one commercial industry – agriculture. MPT's production team filmed episode segments at more than four dozen farms in preparation for its seventh season.

The episode begins with introductions at Clark's Elioak Farm in **Ellicott City** and features the following education-themed segments:

- **Green Street Academy (Baltimore City):** Green Street Academy – a Baltimore City

charter school with a focus on sustainability – is actually located on the bustling North Hilton Street, but one glance around the campus and the reason for the school's name becomes clear. With solar panels, greenhouses, chicken flocks, and tanks of fish, the school's robust farm program provides fertile ground for learning new math and science skills and developing a greater appreciation for the importance of agriculture.

- **4-H Market Project Program (Carroll County):** At Whitetail Acres Boer Goats in Hampstead, teenager Hannah Haines has been raising goats for years. Viewers see the development of Hannah's competition goat from young kid to sale-ready adult as Hannah and her peers prepare for and participate in the annual Carroll County 4-H & FFA Fair in Westminster.
- **The Local Buy: Red Wiggler Community Farm (Montgomery County):** Segment host Al Spoler heads to Red Wiggler Community Farm near Clarksville, where individuals with developmental disabilities contribute to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. As paid employees of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, participants learn the value of farm work and the satisfaction of a job well done. Spoler then speaks with local author Claudia Kousoula, writer of "Bread and Beauty," a collection of recipes using local produce. Claudia shares her delicious recipe for zucchini tian, prepared using fresh produce from Red Wiggler. The recipe is available at mpt.org/farm.

***Maryland Farm & Harvest* airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT-HD** and is rebroadcast on Thursdays at 11:30 p.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m. Each show also airs on MPT2 on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Previous episodes of the series can be viewed for free on the MPT app and online at MPT's [website](http://mpt.org).

Viewers can join in on the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram by using the hashtag **#MDFarmHarvest**.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is MPT's co-production partner for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*. Major funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

Additional funding is provided by: Maryland's Best; the Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation; MidAtlantic Farm Credit; the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation; the Rural Maryland Council; and the Maryland Soybean Board. Other support comes from: the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts; Wegmans Food Markets; the Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association; the Maryland Seafood Marketing Fund; the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.; the Maryland Farm Bureau; The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment; Mar-Del Watermelon Association; Eddie Mercer Agri-Services, Inc.; and Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Source: <https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2019/12/30/mpt-series-maryland-farm-harvest-features-education-themed-episode-on-december-31/>

Announcements

❖ Taste of Maryland Agriculture Dinner

Don't miss the Taste of Maryland Agricultural celebration on:

February 6th, 2020

Reservations must be made by:
January 10th.

For more information, contact Gail Yeiser at 410-353-3069

Additional information and reservation forms can be found at www.mdagcouncil.com

❖ Maryland Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis



February 12th, 2020

Registration Deadline: January 30th

\$30 Per Member

Register Online:

<http://bit.ly/DayInAnnapolis2020>

*See attached flier

❖ 2020 Trucking Forum

Frederick County Farm Bureau along with Carroll County will be hosting a Trucking Forum on:

February 20, 2020
Frederick Fairgrounds
797 East Patrick St.
Frederick, MD 21701
9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- Updated Farm Trucking Manuals will be available.
- Discuss the issues facing farmers on rural roads and state highways.
- Hear firsthand how the latest trucking rules and regulations can affect your business.
- Have a question about IRP's, permits, tags, and weight limits?

Donuts and Coffee will be served. For more information, contact Maryland Farm Bureau at 410-922-3426.

❖ Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting

The 2020 Howard County Mid-Winter Ag Meeting will be held:

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Gary J. Arthur Community Center
Glenwood, MD



Calendar of Events

2020

JAN 15 SOUTHERN MARYLAND HAY AND PASTURE CONFERENCE

Place Baden Volunteer Fire Department
16608 Brandywine Rd,
Brandywine, MD 20613

Time 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

JAN 17 CENTRAL MARYLAND HAY AND PASTURE CONFERENCE

Place Burkittsville Ruritan
500 E Main St
Jefferson, MD 21755

Time 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

JAN 17-22 101ST AFBF ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

Place Austin, TX

JAN 23 2020 CENTRAL MARYLAND VEGETABLES GROWERS MEETING

Place Friendly Farms Restaurant

Time 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

JAN 28 MID-ATLANTIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONVENTION

Place Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

Time Tues 9:00 a.m. – Thurs 4:00 p.m.

JAN 31 INVESTING IN YOUR FARM'S FUTURE-CARROLL COUNTY

Place Carroll County Extension Office

Time 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FEB 4 FREDERICK COUNTY 2020 COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE CONFERENCE

Place Frederick County 4-H Camp & Activities Center

Time 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FEB 6 TASTE OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE DINNER

Place Michael's Eighth Avenue
7220 Grayburn Drive
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

Time 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**FEB 6 CAROLINE COUNTY 2020 COMMERCIAL
PESTICIDE CONFERENCE**

Place Caroline County 4-H & Youth Park
Time 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

FEB 12 MD FARM BUREAU DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

Place Calvert House,
Annapolis, MD
Time 8:30 a.m.
*See Attached Flyer

**FEB 20 MONTGOMERY-HOWARD-FREDERICK
AGRONOMY DAY**

Place Urbana Fire Hall
3602 Urbana Pike
Frederick, MD 21704
Time 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**FEB 25 BALTIMORE COUNTY NUTRIENT
APPLICATOR VOUCHER TRAINING**

Place Baltimore County Extension Office
Time 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**MAR 10 HCPSS AG ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Place Applications & Research Laboratory Media
Center/Library
10920 Clarkesville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Time 9:00 a.m.

[NOTE]: Some programs require pre-registration and/or a fee. For programs sponsored by University of Maryland Extension, please contact the person indicated at least two weeks in advance of the event.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU'S DAY IN ANNAPOLIS



Maryland Farm Bureau depends on champion advocates like you to stand up for policies that affect agriculture in our state. Whether you are a leader or just getting started in Farm Bureau, you can raise your voice to influence policies impacting agriculture. Visiting your legislators is by far the most effective means of conveying your message. Make your voice heard by joining us for this important day in our state capital.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:30 AM Legislative briefing from Maryland Farm Bureau staff
Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle
- 10:00 AM Sit in on Senate or House sessions or make office visits
Maryland State House, 100 State Circle
- 11:45 AM Lunch with legislators
Governor Calvert House, 58 State Circle
- 1:00 PM Sit in on committee hearings or make office visits
Senate or House Office Building

PARKING

Parking is available in one of the garages downtown for about \$16/day or at the Naval Academy Stadium lot for \$5. Shuttles run every 15 minutes (6:30am - 7:00pm) from the stadium and drop off in front of the State House.

DIRECTIONS TO NAVAL ACADEMY STADIUM LOT

- » Take Route 50 to Annapolis
- » Use Exit 24 onto Rowe Boulevard towards downtown Annapolis
- » Turn right onto Taylor Avenue just after the Courthouse
- » The lot is the third entrance on the right



HOW TO REGISTER:

REGISTER ONLINE

<http://bit.ly/DayInAnnapolis2020>

OR

SCAN THE QR CODE

using the camera on your phone (iPhones only) or using a QR scanner app:



\$30 PER MEMBER

**DEADLINE:
JANUARY 30TH**